

# Overview of Independent Living

## Terms Used With The Independent Living Program

**Spenddown-** (like an insurance deductible) the amount of medical expenses incurred over a specific time ( usually 6 months) before Medicaid insurance will start paying towards your medical costs. Consumers are responsible for the medical expenses prior to the spenddown being met.

**Base Period-** set time period a spenddown covers. (1/1/09 to 06/30/09)

**Medically Needy** - The name of the benefit plan for persons seeking Medicaid coverage through a spenddown.

**Protected Income Level (PIL)-** the amount of income a person can keep. The monthly PIL for the MS-IL program is \$475.

**Meeting a Spenddown** - Meeting a spenddown is a term referring to the process by which the consumer proves he has medical costs which are greater than his spenddown.

## Basics of Meeting a Spenddown

1. When approved for MS-IL program, they are assigned a Medically Needy benefit plan through MMIS and a Medically Needy medical card is issued
2. There is no program subtype for this program.
3. If income is greater than the \$475 (PIL), a spenddown is established. If income is less than \$475 (PIL), coverage may begin immediately.
4. There are 3 ways to apply expenses to a spenddown.
  - a. Worker allows expenses on MEEX screen.
  - b. Worker allows expenses through beneficiary billed process.
  - c. Medicaid provider bills medically needy card and expenses are applied automatically.
5. The consumer is notified when the spenddown is met and what expenses were used to meet the spenddown. All services that were billed to Medicaid are cross matched against bills used to meet the spenddown. This ensures those bills are never paid by Medicaid and are the responsibility of the consumer.

## **Medicaid Programs For The Elderly And Persons With Disabilities**

**Consumers seeking coverage under the elderly and disabled programs will have their financial eligibility determined on one of the following 2 programs:**

### **MS Program**

- ☞ Independent Living
- ☞ Working Healthy
- ☞ Home and Community Based Services
- ☞ Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly
- ☞ Nursing Facility Assistance

### **Who is Eligible?**

- ✓ Aged (65 and over)
- ✓ Disabled (according to Social Security Criteria or Presumptive Level Tier 1)
- ✓ Blind

### **SSI Program**

- ☞ Independent Living
- ☞ Home and Community Based Services
- ☞ Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly
- ☞ Nursing Facility Assistance

### **Who is Eligible?**

- ✓ Anyone receiving SSI benefits

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